

# Woman of the Year Named Today See Story Page 1-C



HAMPDEN WENTWORTH



CHRISTINA WENTWORTH

## Plane Crash Kills Wentworth Pair

Hampden and Christina Wentworth, who sold their Longren Aircraft Co. to Aeronca here last year, were killed Tuesday when their plane crashed on takeoff from an airstrip at Reserve, N. M.

The couple were flying home to join their four small children when they made a forced landing for repairs. Sheriff Barney Hickson said he told Wentworth not to try for a takeoff through the mud but to wait till morning when there would be frozen snow on the ground.

He said Wentworth, who was a pilot in the navy during World War II, took off anyway, and the plane hit a tree, crashing near a church on the outskirts of the town.

Wentworth was president and his wife vice president of Longren. They were widely known in Torrance. The family home is at 36 Portuguese Bend Rd., Rolling Hills.

At Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Councilman Willys Blount made the announcement.

Hugh Crawford, president of Acme Aircraft, had sent the council a letter praising the inclination of the city and Airport Commission to develop the city airport as a sport and private flying facility. Crawford was at the council meeting, but departed instantly he heard word of the crash. He was a close friend of the Wentworths.

Blount had to make the announcement; he also was a friend.

Councilman Robert B. Jahn, another friend, perhaps should have revealed the news, but it would have been too difficult for him to bring himself to do so.

It was his plane the Wentworths crashed.

## George Vico, Dominguez Public Relations Director, Is Candidate for City Council

George Vico, director of public relations for the Dominguez Estate Co., today announced he will be a candidate for one of three City Council seats in the April election.

Vico, widely known personally in Torrance, long has been active in community and service affairs.

Sports enthusiasts are acquainted with him from his 17-year career in professional baseball. This week he endeared himself to Torrance young ball players by arranging with Ben Kazarian, dump operator, to donate \$5000 in time and service to level Entradero sump for several ball fields.

(The complete story on the Entradero project will appear in Sunday's edition of the Press.)

Vico has been a member of the Park and Recreation Commission, active in Community Chest drives, and chairman of Cancer Society and Red Cross campaigns.

He has given extensive time and work to the Harlan Shoemaker-School for Crippled and Retarded Children in San Pedro.

Vico will draw on his long residence in Torrance and the many friends he has made through his philanthropic endeavors to adhere to a constructive program for the continued growth and development of the city.

A resident of Hollywood Riviera, he lives with his wife, Helen, and two children, Cynthia, 12, and Steve, 8.

### DRALE, JAHN WILL RUN; BENSTEAD—?

Two of three City Councilmen whose seats will be contested at the April election Tuesday night told The Press they will run reelection.

Nick Drale definitely will be a candidate. Robert B. Jahn wants to run, but indicated personal and business developments before Feb. 18 could prevent him from doing so.

Victor E. Benstead said he was uncertain, but the consensus of City Hall observers is that he will be in the race.

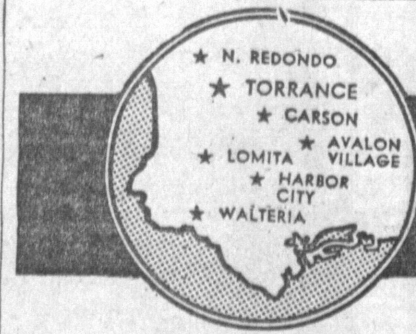


CANDIDATE—George Vico, long-time popular resident of Torrance, gets around town to let people know he is running. —Press Photo

### Washington, Lincoln Park Programs Slated

Two special programs will be given on national holidays at Lomita Park this month.

Sponsored by the county Department of Parks and Recreation, a Lincoln's Birthday dance has been arranged for Feb. 12 at 7 p.m., and a Washington's Birthday celebration including a free movie will be held Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.



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# Little League Told to Await Decision on Paradise Park

## Compromise Meeting Set for Today

Proponents Questioned; Foes Not Called Upon

It was standing room only—and not much of that—at City Council Tuesday night when proponents and opponents of Little League's use of Paradise Park jammed the chambers and overflowed into the hall.

City Hall was shaken to its foundation by a chorus of "No!" when Mayor Albert Isen suggested a council committee meet with the Little League to work out a compromise.

Isen suggested the audience set an example for their children and abstain from emotional outbursts. From there on he held the meeting in firm control until Councilman Nick Drale demanded an answer there and then. His request brought deafening applause from friend and foe of the plan.

The plan, instituted by Little League, is to be granted exclusive use of about one-fourth of the park for a ball diamond during the choice hours of the summer—week-day evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings.

The diamond would be useless for standard baseball.

Opponents contend the park is for use by all and that granting exclusive rights to a private organization would be a gift of city property and would open the door to all comers.

The Little League is declaring it has the blessing of more than 80% of neighborhood residents, a contention bitterly contested by a large bloc in the audience.

The Park and Recreation Commission last week unanimously recommended denial of the league's plea.

Tuesday George Vico, candidate for a council seat in the April election, told the gathering that through his good offices Cal Compac dump firm is donating about \$5000 in time and equipment to level Entradero sump on Hallison St. and make space available for up to 10 diamonds.

Councilman J. B. Beasley moved to concur with the Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation and was seconded by Victor E. Benstead, but the motion died when the Mayor took the ball.

Councilman Willys Blount declared that "if 92% of the residents want the Little League in Paradise Park, I'll vote to let them have it."

Benstead declared the park belongs to everybody, not just the people in the Southwood tract.

"But you came out for parks to serve specific neighborhoods some time ago," Blount reminded him.

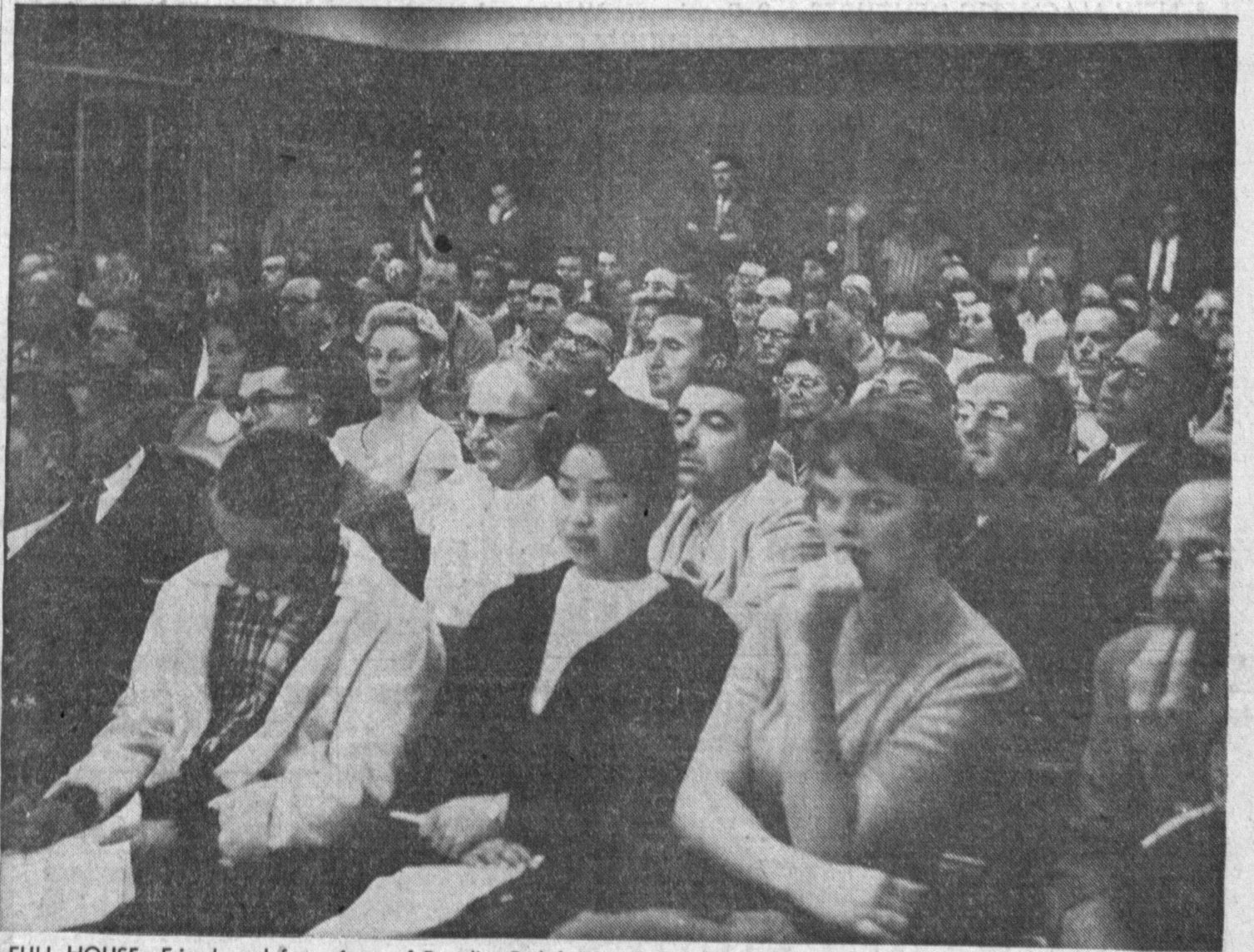
"Yes, but not to exclude anyone," Benstead countered.

The Mayor asked Pat Hogue, baseball commissioner, and Walter Virgil, leading Little League proponent, to come forward individually and help the council plan action to resolve the controversy.

He turned a deaf ear to Mary Ackerman, who heads the opposition.

Isen told Virgil to bring along two delegates to a conference with council committee today at 2 p.m.

He named Drale, Councilman Robert B. Jahn, and Councilman George Bradford the committee, with himself as alternate. They will try to pick substitute site, that the council may give a yes or no next Tuesday.



FULL HOUSE—Friends and foes of use of Paradise Park by Little League overflow City Council chambers for a decision.

Both sides went away disappointed, having expected controversy to be resolved. Committee will discuss issue today. —Press Photo

## Inside the Press

The furor over what company will write Torrance city employees' group insurance still is far from over. Councilman Robert B. Jahn's blast at the workers' meeting—and the union's answer—is on Page 12-A.

Elsewhere in today's edition:

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## Mayor Isen Will Head YMCA Drive to Raise 1960 Fund

The Torrance YMCA today announced its 1960 campaign goal, along with names of the key fund-drive leaders. \$32,629 will be needed to serve 6109 local boys and girls during 1960.

Scott F. Albright, board chairman, said this goal will support 213 YMCA clubs, 11 local YMCA camps, athletics for 1200 boys

in Torrance YMCA leagues, plus many leadership-training activities and personal counseling.

Mayor Albert Isen has accepted the job of general campaign chairman for the third consecutive year. Isen recruited George Heaton to lead the YMCA's Industrial Campaign and Dr. Allen L. Pyatt to head the Century Club drive for \$100 memberships.

City Attorney Stanley Remel-meyer is chairman of the teams campaign and has recruited Chapman Bone and Donald Hitchcock to be his key associates.

Six division chairmen have accepted goals of \$2666 each in the campaign. They are Robert Morris, John Wallace, Robert Waddell, Jim Post, George Kurtz, and Dr. Robert Barrett.

The campaign will be launched with a kick-off breakfast Saturday, Feb. 20, and will conclude with a victory banquet March 17.

More than 200 volunteer Y campaigners are being recruited for the city's largest annual campaign, and advance gifts are being obtained from families and business firms.

The local YMCA provides a graded program for children six years of age through high school and college. All money to operate the program is raised through the one drive each year.

## South Torrance Water Bid Low by \$100,000

The William A. Drennan Co. of Oildale Tuesday night appeared to be the decisive low bidder on construction of water facilities for South Torrance Water District No. 3.

The Drennan figure is \$251,543.79, nearly \$100,000 under the estimate of the city engineer's office. Five bids were opened in City Council session.



COUNCIL AWARD—Councilman Robert B. Jahn presents plaque to Dick Fitzgerald, Chamber of Commerce manager. It honors

him for having been chosen one of five outstanding young men of Southland. Council passed resolution on the honor last month. —Press Photo